

H.B. 5250

**Government Administration and Elections Committee
Testimony – February 27, 2012**

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Chairs and members of the Committee, my name is Luther Weeks, Executive Director of CTVotersCount. I have served in three elections as a central count absentee ballot Moderator.

I support H.B 5250 which provides for Certified Moderators and others to serve as officials in any municipality in the state in a primary, just as they can in elections. I also have a suggestion for further improvement in this law and bill.

The three times I served as moderator in an election, were in a municipality, other than my own. Because of the existing law, I have had to turn down serving in primaries. The existing law and distinction between primaries and elections makes no sense and can make staffing difficult for registrars of voters.

I also suggest changing the limitations on checkers, ballot clerks, and machine tenders, which seem to imply that only a single check-in line is necessary in a primary. In high volume primaries, especially now that towns are consolidating polling places, serving the public may demand more than a single line, often requiring more than two checkers. Leave it to registrars of voters to determine staffing necessary to serve the public. I have provided suggested text:

at least one~~[, but not more than two]~~ official checker[s], not more than two challengers if ~~[he]~~ the registrar deems it necessary, and at least one ~~[and not more than two]~~ ballot clerk[s] and at least one ~~[but not more than two voting]~~ tabulator tender~~[s for each tabulator in use at such primary]~~

I also note that in several bills 'registrar' is changed to 'registrar of voters'. For consistency, that same change should be made in several places in this bill.

Thank you.